

27 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

10-2398

SUBJECT : Demolition of Certain CIA Buildings.

REFERENCES: (a) Ltr dtd 3 Mar 58 to F. Moran McConihe, Com, PBS, fr L. K. White, DD, CIA.
(b) Ltr dtd 25 Mar 58 to L. K. White, DD, CIA, fr F. Moran McConihe, Com, PBS.
(c) Ltr dtd 27 Mar 58 to F. Moran McConihe, Com, PBS, fr L. K. White, DD, CIA.

1. On 27 March 1958 I called Mr. F. Moran McConihe, Commissioner of Public Buildings, concerning his letter of 25 March 1958 which notified me that the Public Buildings Service "must plan to relocate those portions of the Agency now located in areas to be occupied by the bridge approaches." I told him that I thought we were going to have to give further consideration to this problem and that I did not believe that those who had investigated it for him were fully aware of its seriousness. He said that of course the Public Buildings Service regretted this but that the District Highway people had declined to cooperate in rearranging their schedules. I then said that I proposed to take up the matter with Colonel Welling, the District Engineer Commissioner, and that I would be in touch with him again after I had heard from Colonel Welling. I also suggested that it might be well if the three of us sat down to discuss the subject in more detail. He said that he would be glad to do this at any time but would leave the initiative to me to arrange the meeting.

2. I telephoned Colonel Welling and advised him of the substance of Mr. McConihe's letter of 25 March, particularly that part of it which indicated that the District Government would not agree that their bridge approaches could be delayed beyond the dates set on the schedules already submitted. He said that he was not even sure as yet that he was going to construct a bridge and that in any case no one had discussed this matter with him. He assured me, as he had done previously about two weeks ago, that he did not think there would be any problem but that he would discuss the matter with his Highway Department and be in touch with me.

3. Later in the morning Mr. John N. Robinson, the District Highway Director, telephoned on behalf of Colonel Welling to discuss the matter with me. He said that the Public Buildings Service had written to the Highway Department asking that firm schedules for construction of the bridge and its approaches be furnished in lieu of the earlier tentative schedules and that he had replied that the tentative

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dates were as firm as anything he could supply at that time. (Insofar as I could tell from my conversations with Colonel Welling and Mr. Robinson, the Public Buildings Service made no representation whatever to the Highway Department to comply with the request made in my letter of 3 March 1958 to the effect that construction schedules for the bridge and its approaches be arranged so as to permit us to use the buildings which we now occupy until we are able to move directly into our new building.) He assured me that plans for the bridge were very tentative and that he foresaw no problem whatever in working out the construction schedules to our mutual satisfaction. Furthermore, he was outgoing in his expressions of willingness to be cooperative and repeatedly assured me that I should not worry about this matter any further.

4. Following this conversation I telephoned Mr. McConihe and advised him of my talks with Colonel Welling and Mr. Robinson. It was obvious that he, personally, had not looked into this matter and that he was a bit nonplussed at the response which the Highway Department had given me, which, of course, is in strong contradiction to his own statement. I told him that I would reply to his letter advising him of the substance of my conversation with representatives of the District Government.

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L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

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11-2397

27 March 1958

Mr. F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McConihe:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25 March 1958 and confirm our telephone conversation of 27 March.

I have acquainted Colonel A. C. Welling, the District Engineer Commissioner, with the difficulties which would be encountered if the Central Intelligence Agency attempted to vacate the buildings which are scheduled for demolition in connection with the construction of approaches to the proposed new Potomac River bridge. I have also talked with Mr. John N. Robinson, the District Highway Director, concerning the possibility of scheduling the construction of the approaches so as to permit us to occupy the affected buildings until we are able to move their present occupants into our new building at Langley. Mr. Robinson has assured me that he is most anxious to cooperate, that he is confident that a mutually satisfactory solution to the problem can be worked out without too much difficulty, and that he will contact me in the not too distant future to discuss the matter in greater detail.

Accordingly, it appears that with your cooperation this most expensive and undesirable move can be avoided. It would, therefore, seem to be unnecessary to request that the Bureau of the Budget submit a supplemental estimate to the Congress. However, I will, of course, be glad to meet with you and representatives of the Bureau of the Budget to discuss this matter further at any time you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

/s/

L. K. White
Deputy Director

DD/S:LKW:laq
Distribution:

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1 - Mr. Macy, Bureau of the Budget

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Public Buildings Service
Washington 25, D. C.

25 March 1958

Mr. L. K. White
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. White:

We have delayed answering your letter of March 3 in an effort to determine if the schedule for work in connection with the approaches for the new Potomac River bridge was sufficiently firm to require serious consideration for housing parts of your agency in rented quarters prior to the completion of your new building.

We have been unable to date to get the District Government to agree that their bridge approaches could be delayed beyond the dates set on the schedule which they recently sent us. This means that we must plan to relocate those portions of your agency now located in areas to be occupied by the bridge approaches.

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Through a memorandum dated March 14 prepared by [redacted] of your staff, we understand that a prior letter of November 14, 1957, should be considered with your letter of March 3, 1958. This indicates that your agency will require the permanent use of 450,000 square feet of space in addition to the space provided in your new building. This further indicates that instead of a temporary relocation of some of your activities we must seek funds for the permanent acquisition of 450,000 square feet of space. Since this space must be rented, we will require approximately \$2,000,000 additional for rent and services to take care of your needs outside of your new building.

We plan to take steps to promptly present this matter to the Bureau of the Budget with a request that they submit a supplemental estimate to the Congress. We will expect you to be prepared to justify the need for this additional space before the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress since we understand that the Congress in providing funds for your new building contemplated your housing all of your activities within that building.

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Mr. L. K. White

We will contact you further as this matter develops in order that we may plan to include sufficient funds to take care of the special problems referred to in your letter that may be involved in the housing of your activities in rented space.

Sincerely yours

/s/ F. Moran McConihe

Commissioner
Public Buildings Service

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3 March 1958

Mr. F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McConihe:

We have noted with interest the current publicity concerning the construction of the Potomac River bridge and were recently advised informally by officials of the Public Buildings Service that the new target date is some two years earlier than that provided for in the former schedule. As I understand it, the construction of the approaches to the bridge would require the demolition of several buildings now occupied by the Central Intelligence Agency and some consideration is being given to requesting that we vacate these buildings early in 1959.

Whether the eventual additional river crossing is a bridge or a tunnel, we fully recognize the need for it and the importance of completing it as soon as possible. However, we consider it extremely important that the timing for the construction of the approaches be such as will not require us to vacate the buildings to be demolished until we can move into our new building at Langley the latter part of 1960 or early in 1961. Aside from the very substantial cost of making such a temporary move, it seems very doubtful that proper accommodations could be prepared by early 1959. The activities concerned are, for the most part, rather specialized and normal office-type space does not lend itself to their use in many instances. Many of these activities could not move until comparable accommodations, including specialized equipment, were available at the interim location. Even more important, however, is the fact that it is almost mandatory that most of the activities which would be affected must be in immediate proximity to other Agency components and the Director. To do otherwise would most seriously jeopardize the efficiency of our operation and the timeliness of our product.

To attempt such an interim move would, in our opinion, be contrary to the national interest. I would, therefore, like to request that the necessary action be taken to insure that those affected buildings occupied by this Agency be maintained for our use until we are able to move

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the components which occupy them directly into our new building.

I would be glad to meet with you or your representatives at any time to discuss this matter in further detail if you so desire.

Sincerely,

/s/

L. K. White
Deputy Director

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14 November 1957

Mr. William A. Schmidt
 Assistant Commissioner for Planning
 Public Buildings Service
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

As previously discussed by representatives of our respective offices, the new building at Langley, Virginia, will fall short of meeting Agency space requirements by approximately 450,000 square feet.

This shortage of space will mean that designated components of the Agency must continue to be housed in areas away from the new building. Present thinking envisions retention of several blocks of space now occupied by our personnel. In order that firm plans may be formulated, it is requested that this Agency retain, indefinitely, the space now occupied in the following buildings:

Administration Building	46,272	sq. ft.
Central Building	21,210	" "
East Building	8,320	" "
North Building	19,820	" "
West Outbuilding	23,070	" "
South Outbuilding	17,300	" "
Building #7	2,140	" "

Building #9	700	" "
1717 H St., N.W. (Matomic Building)	50,275	" "
1014-5th St., N.W. (Steuart Building)	59,696	" "
1016-16th St., N.W.	28,844	" "
1919 Nash St., Rosslyn, Virginia	18,586	" "

25X1

TOTAL -	348,796	sq. ft.
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25X1

In the event approaches to the proposed Potomac River Bridge, or other factors, necessitate destruction or modification of any of the buildings listed above, replacement space will, of course, be required.

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Mr. William A. Schmidt, Assistant Commissioner for Planning, Public Buildings Service

However, in addition to the space itemized above, there will still exist an additional Agency requirement for approximately 101,000 square feet. Anticipating this need in a downtown Washington location, I wrote to Mr. McConihe on 16 March 1957, requesting assignment to the Agency of the space to be released at 1717 H Street, N. W. by the Atomic Energy Commission. It is now my understanding that GSA has made plans to assign this space to the Bureau of Public Roads. In consideration of the non-availability of this specific space, it is requested that we be allocated all of the space in Arlington Towers, now occupied by the Department of State, at such time as this space is vacated.

If the Arlington Towers space cannot be made available any other large block of suitable space in the Metropolitan area readily accessible to the Langley site would be acceptable.

All assistance you and your organization can render will be appreciated, and Agency representatives are available at any time to work with Public Buildings Service representatives in solving this problem.

Sincerely,

/s/
L. K. White
Deputy Director

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